

#### ANGULAR LEAFSPOT OF AZALEA

C. P. Seymour

Angular leafspot (also known as scorch), caused by *Septoria azaleas* Vogl., was first described in Torino, Italy, in 1898 (4). Ornamental nurseries in New Jersey reported severe damage to greenhouse grown azaleas in 1933 (6). By 1953 angular leafspot was known to occur in greenhouses with high humidity and was generally found throughout the southeastern states where evergreen varieties of azaleas were grown (5). Under favorable environmental conditions of foggy, damp, cool weather (2, 3) this is potentially a serious disease of azaleas in Florida; it is of common occurrence in the state. Overhead watering and rain splashing are important means of spore dissemination of this pathogen (7),

**SYMPTOMS.** Irregular, angular, reddish-brown leafspots, at times with yellow halos, are followed by premature dropping of leaves (Fig. 1). Severe defoliation and death of terminal buds (Fig. 2) may occur causing a reduction in the growth of plants infected by this pathogen (1).

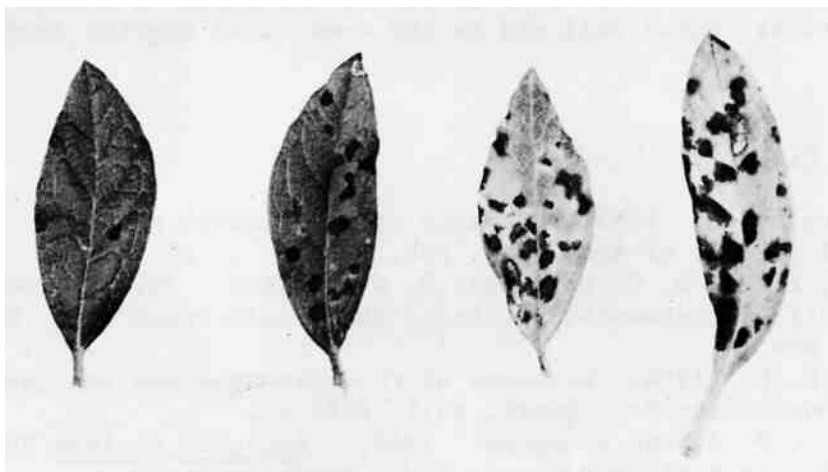


Fig. 1. Progression of disease development in azalea leaves.

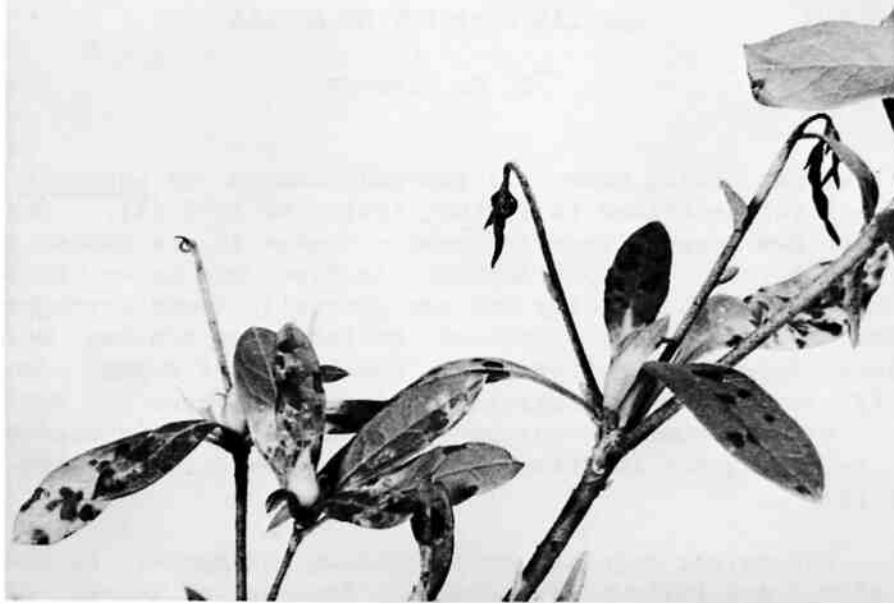


Fig. 2. Azalea branch showing severe defoliation and death of terminal buds.

CONTROL. Applications of fungicides such as maneb, ferbam or zineb (1 1/2 lbs/100 gal water) 10-14 days apart following blooming should keep this disease under control. Mulching, the use of windbreaks, destruction of diseased plant parts where feasible, and the avoidance of overhead sprinklers which cause excessive splashing of water, are cultural practices which will aid in the control of angular leafspot (1, 2).

### Literature Cited

1. Forsberg, J. L. 1963. Diseases of ornamental plants. Univ. of Ill., Coll. of Agr. Spec. Pub. No. 3. p. 28.
2. Pirone, P. P., B. O. Dodge and H. W. Rickett. 1960. Diseases and pests of ornamental plants. The Ronald Press Co., New York, p. 608.
3. Raabe, R. D. 1954. Diseases of rhododendrons and azaleas. Amer. Rhododendron Soc. Quart. Bull. 8(2):83.
4. Saccardo, P. A. and P. Sydow. 1898. *Septoria azaleae* Vogl., p. 976. In *Sylloge Fungorum* XIV. Patavii, Italy.
5. U.S. Dep. Agr. Plant Disease Survey Special Publication. 1953. Index of plant diseases of the United States. Division of Mycology and Disease Survey, Beltsville, Maryland.
6. White, R. P. 1933. The insects and diseases of rhododendron and azalea. J. econ. Entomol. 26:637.
7. 1967 Cornell recommendations for commercial floriculture crops. Cornell Univ., Ithaca, p. 29.